

**Johnson, Patrick**

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**From:** rtruairf@gmail.com on behalf of Rachel Farris <rachel.t.farris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:37 PM  
**To:** District Applications  
**Subject:** CRC Commission Application - Rachel T. Farris  
**Attachments:** Farris-Rachel-Truair-Commission Application FORM.pdf

Please find my application materials for the Citizens' Redistricting Committee attached.

Thank you!

Rachel

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Rachel Farris

[rachel.t.farris@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.t.farris@gmail.com)

512.919.6051 c.



# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

*Application Period:  
January 18, 2013  
through  
February 22, 2013*

Please submit your completed application  
by email to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
by mail or in person to:  
Office of the City Auditor  
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130  
Austin, TX 78701

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY  
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN  
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER  
AT [WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE](http://WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE)**

You must submit an electronic application to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

**Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013**

**DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE**

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
  - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
    - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
    - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
    - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Farris Rachel Truair  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1139032324

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

2324 Santa Rita Street Austin TX 78702  
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-919-6051

Contact Email Address: rachel.t.farris@gmail.com

Spouse's Name:   
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-22A11:15 RCVD

**APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**2013**

Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Conflicts of Interest**

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

<b>Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:</b>	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:</b>	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>In the last City Election did you or your spouse:</b>	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Personal Background Information**

- Ethnicity: Caucasian
- Race: Caucasian
- Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female
- Age: (Please check your response)
  - ☐ 18 to 24    ☒ 25 to 34    ☐ 35 to 44    ☐ 45 to 54    ☐ 55 to 64    ☐ 65+
- Education level: (Please check any that apply)
  - ☒ High School Diploma or GED
  - ☐ Some College (major \_\_\_\_\_)
  - ☐ Associate's Degree (major \_\_\_\_\_)
  - ☒ Bachelor's Degree (major Organizational Communication)
  - ☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject \_\_\_\_\_)

**Qualifications**

**Please describe your relevant analytical skills.**

As the Director of Operations at a downtown Austin startup organization, I have the opportunity to use my analytical skills on a daily basis. While I have a keen eye for detail, I can also zero in on the big picture and work toward a desired end when necessary.

On a more personal level, as a young, native Austinite and East Austin homeowner, I have had the chance to see the impact of policy decisions made over the last 28 years and how they affect not only our economy but also people's lives. When analyzing a decision, I look at all possible outcomes and areas of impact. The past decisions of our City should serve as a guidebook for the decisionmakers of today and I would apply those lessons in my work on the Commission. My work will not only affect my own generation, but also how Austin will look to my future children years from now.



**Please describe your ability to be impartial.**

Impartiality is easy when you are working in the best interests of the common good. Since I was born in Austin almost 29 years ago, I have always wanted to do what is best for my wonderful native city. As a young female, I also have a unique perspective on what Austin is like to live in. While I do not always side on the utilitarian style of ethical decisionmaking, I believe utilitarianism can serve cities and their communities well. As someone who own a home in East Austin and works for a thriving small business downtown, striking a balance between a community-friendly and business-friendly city is important to me. Further, I am experienced at analyzing data and making decisions based off of impartial data analysis. I also believe in the virtues behind why something is being done, and constantly check my own compass to ensure I am not straying from the virtues of character, honesty, and impartiality.

**Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.**

I grew up attending Zilker Elementary School where I sang songs like "De Colores" and had bilingual classes. I would walk to Barton Springs and then-Town Lake weekly with my family and still take my own dogs to play on Auditorium Shores on a weekly basis. I speak Spanish fluently and mentor a family of African American children. In 2010, I purchased my first home off of Santa Rita Street in East Austin near Zavala Elementary School. I chose my home because of the diverse neighborhood and the feeling that it reminded me of what Austin truly is: a city trying to hold on to many lovely cultures. I would like to ensure that Austin's diverse culture and demographics are preserved, while ensuring that our beautiful "Violet Crown" stays as environmentally healthy as ever.

**Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.**

As a young, female, native Austinite, I recognize that I will bring a unique view to the Commission. While I am politically involved, I have never been paid to work in politics. This gives me an impartiality that will be very valuable to the commission. I am educated enough to understand the nuances of what is going on in our city, but not so politically connected to give me a bias. Further, as an individual who works for a growing small business in downtown Austin, I will bring a business-friendly background and perspective to the process. Finally, my work in my neighborhood and community with the many cultures and individuals who make up our great city will provide me with a solid foundation from which to work on behalf of all citizens, not simply a certain demographic.

**DISCLAIMER**

**By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.**

**If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.**

**I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.**

**I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.**

**I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.**

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

**Rachel Truair Farris**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

**02/21/2013**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

**GLOSSARY**

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
  - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
  - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
  - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
  - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
  - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

